

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05360 171730Z

66

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 PA-01 SS-15 NSC-05

SAJ-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /052 W

----- 058323

R 171556Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9385

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5360

DEPT. FOR CU/ARTS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: POLITBURO COLLECTIVELY ACTING AS CULTURAL SECRETARY

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 5279 (B) MOSCOW 5217 (C) MOSCOW A-64, 2/14/75

1. POLITBURO FAILURE TO NAME A SUCCESSOR TO DEMICHEV
AS THE PARTY SECRETARY FOR CULTURAL MATTERS AT
APRIL 16 PLENUM SEEMS TO US TO REFLECT GENUINE
PROBLEMS (REF A). NOT ONLY THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE
SEEMS TO BE INDISPUTE, BUT FINDING THE CORRECT LINE
ON CLUTURAL PROBLEMS SEEMS TO BE GIVING TOP
LEADERSHIP HEADACHES. CURRENT STOPGAP SOLUTION IS FOR
THE POLITBURO COLLECTIVELY TO TAKE ON THE FUNCTIONS
OF A CULTURAL SECRETARY. THIS HAS BECOME EVIDENT FROM
RECENT POLITICAL INTERVENTIONS IN THE CULTURAL AREA.

2. PODGORNY, SUSLOV, AND KOSYGIN ATTENDED THE
BOLSHOY THEATER PREMIER OF THE NEW OPERA "DAWNS
ARE QUIET HERE" ON APRIL 11 (REF B). APPARENTLY THEY
WERE CHECKING OUT THE ADAPTATION OF A CURRENT
WAR FILM OF THE SAME NAME. EIGHT OF THE
TEN CPSU SECRETARIES (ONLY BREZHNEV AND KULAKOV
WERE MISSING) ATTENDED THE APRIL 15 JOINT PLENUM OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05360 171730Z

CREATIVE ORGANIZATIONS AND HEARD THE REPRESENTATIVES

OF THE CULTURAL PRODUCERS REVIEW THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-E DAY. ONE OF THEM, G.M. MARKOV, FIRST SECRETARY OF BOARD OF WRITERS' UNION, ALSO SPOKE AT THE CPSU PLENUM AND EVIDENTLY REASSURED THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP ABOUT THE PRESENT STATE OF CONTROLS OVER LITERATURE.

3. WE HEARD FROM YEVUSHENKO (REF C) THAT THE CENSORS ARE BACKLOGGING LITERATURE IN ANTICIPATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CPSU CULTURAL SECRETARY. OTHER PROBLEMS SUCH AS FLIPFLOPPING ON NEW PLAYS SEEMS TO BE PLAGUING THE DIRECTORS THESE DAYS. FOR INSTANCE, THERE IS RUMOR THAT A POLITBURO MEMBER WILL BE GIVING A JUDGMENT ON THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE COMPLETE REWRITE OF THE PLAY "ECHELON" STAGED IN THE NEW MKHAT THEATER. THIS SYMPATHETIC THEATRICAL TREATMENT OF CIVILIAN SUFFERING IN THE REAR AREAS WAS PREMIERED ON MARCH 21 IN THE SOVREMENNICK THEATER, BUT EVIDENTLY IT LACKED ENOUGH "PARTIYNOST" AND GLORIFICATION OF THE SOVIET ARMY TO APASS MUSTER AT THE MKHAT.

4. CULTURAL WORLD WILL EVIDENTLY SUFFER FROM EFFECTS OF POLITICAL INDECISIVENESS FOR SOME TIME, PERHAPS UNTIL NEXT CPSU PLENUM IS HELD. UNFORTUNATELY FOR ARTISTS, THE PRESSURES APPEAR TO BE MOVING TOWARD MORE RESTRICTIVE ATTITUDES, AT LEAST IN THE THEATER. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT CURRENT THEATRICAL STAGES ARE DEVOID OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CRITICISM OR EVEN BORROWINGS FROM THE WEST. TAGANKA PRODUCTION OF "TIGHTEN YOUR SEAT BELTS" HAS SOME TRENCHANT CRITICISM OF TODAY'S MORALITY, "TIL" AT LENIN KOMSOMOL THEATER HAS PERHAPS JAZZIEST MUSIC AND SEXIEST GAMBOLING ON MOSCOW STAGE, AND "THE BRONZE GRANDMOTHER" AT THE PETROVKA HAS SOME LINES IMPLICITLY CRITICAL OF SOVIET RULE AND FUTURE OF SOCIETY. BUT THESE ARE ONLY FLASHES IN THE DARKNESS.
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, LOWER HOUSE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW05360
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750135-0707
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750442/aaaabmw0.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MOSCOW 5279, 75 MOSCOW 5217, 75 MOSCOW A-64, 75 2/14/75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <02 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITBURO COLLECTIVELY ACTING AS CULTURAL SECRETARY
TAGS: PINT, SCUL, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006